
Education Leadership Commission

The Background:

All states and school districts want successful schools that turn out graduates who are well-prepared to continue their education and succeed in chosen careers. Achieving this goal is much enhanced by putting at the head of every school a principal who knows how to lead the changes in curriculum and instruction that will result in higher levels of learning for all groups of students. Decades of research have revealed strong links between what principals do and how students perform.

With higher standards for students and greater accountability for schools and students to have higher achievement in place, several states are considering how to initiate serious efforts to improve the preparation and support of school principals. States are in the driver's seat when it comes to ensuring a supply of high-quality leaders for schools. Districts, schools and universities depend on the state to take the lead when it comes to these issues.

- how prospective principals are chosen, prepared and licensed;
- what induction and professional development principals will receive to support and enhance their practice; and
- promoting local conditions that will allow principals to lead successful schools

The Recommendation:

SBE staff recommends that the State Board of Education, along with the Tennessee Higher Education Commission, jointly appoint Senator Charlotte Burks, Representative Barbara Cooper, Sister Sandra Smithson of the Smithson-Craighead Academy, and Dr. Tammy Grisham of the Tennessee School Board Association to the Education Leadership Commission.